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Versuche über die Ablenkung der Aufmerksamkeit. ARVED BARTELS.
Inaug. Dis. Dorpat, 1889.

The writer of this thesis, like Oehrn, a pupil of Kræpelin's, has studied the distraction of the attention in the field of light sensations by finding the variation in the threshold stimulus for one eye, when its reception was preceded at a short interval by another stimulus in the other eye. For the description of the rather complex apparatus and the detail of the experimentation the reader must be referred to the original; the following points, however, may be mentioned: the threshold was fixed at the point where half the judgments were correct (method of right and wrong cases); the distracting stimulus was 1515 times as intense as that of the threshold, and lasted 0.171 sec. against 0.448 sec. for the latter; the intervals between the two were varied from 0.1 to 10 seconds, those from 1 to 6 receiving most attention. Evidence of distraction was found, lasting as long as 6 seconds, but evidence also of a diametrically opposite effect, the intended distraction acting like the warning signal in reaction-time experiments and helping to concentrate the attention. The intervals at which this was most marked were about $2\frac{1}{2}$ sec. and $4\frac{1}{2}$ sec. with some signs of another such period at a little more than 7 seconds. This rhythmic change recalls those found by time-sense experimenters, but is much longer (Estel 0.75 sec.; Mehner 1.4 sec.; Glass 1.25 sec.). It agrees, however, pretty well with the interval in estimating which the smallest error is made, and with this it is probably connected; L. Lange, Ewald and Wundt have found the two-second warning to be the most effective one in reaction-time experiments. The experiments tried show that there is no connection with the two-second periodicity of the unconstrained attention (N. Lange). When the interval between the stimuli varied each time and the subject only knew the limits within which it might vary, he seemed to adjust his attention to a point midway between.

Ueber die psychologischen Grundlagen der Vergleichung gehobener Gewichte. G. E. MÜLLER und FR. SCHUMANN. Reprint from Pflüger's Archiv., Bd. XLV, pp. 37-112, 1889.

This very important paper is an investigation of the simple illusion which makes a light weight lifted after a heavy one seem disproportionately light, and *vice versa*. The importance for psychophysics of such a study is obvious, but the writers value their work less as a contribution to that subject than to the theory of motor adjustment and organic memory. The weights were lifted behind the back with every precaution to secure accurate results. A typical experiment is as follows: A standard weight of 676 grammes was compared five times each with weights of 626, 676, 726, 776, 826, 876 grammes. The last was recognized as heavier every time, the next-to-the-last four times. The standard weight was then compared 30 times with a weight of 2476 grammes, and after that once each with weights of 926, 876 and 826 grammes. All seemed lighter. After five more comparisons with the 2476 gramme weight, it was again compared with the last three, and so the experiment continued. In this case the standard and comparison weights were lifted with different hands, but the illusion occurs in single handed experiments also, and it is even possible in a certain degree to disturb the judg-